

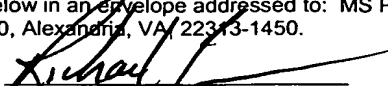
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1AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 13 APR 2006

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Dated: April 13, 2006

Signature:


(Richard Zimmermann)

Docket No.: 19036/41822
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Kaoru Nomichi et al.

Application No.: National Phase of
PCT/JP2004/015548

Confirmation No.: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: N/A

For: Gas Seal Structure

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.